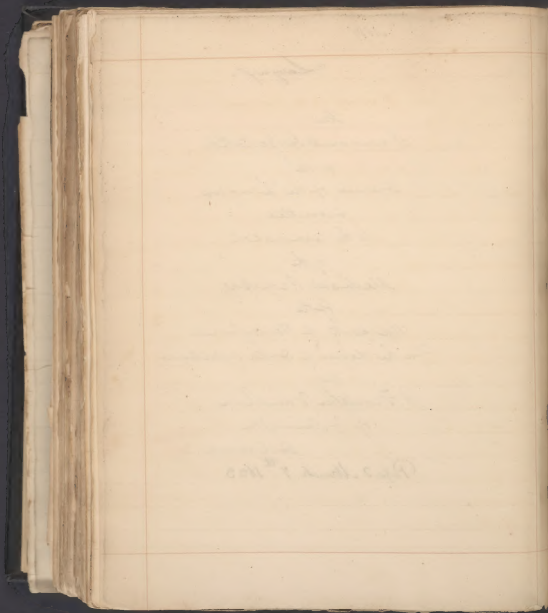


## Larynx.

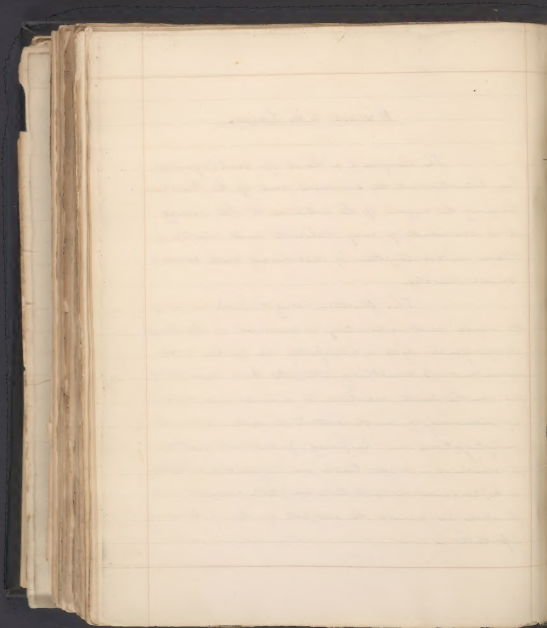
An  
Inaugural Dissertation  
on the  
Diseases of the Larynx,  
submitted  
to the examination  
of the  
Medical Professors  
of the  
University of Pennsylvania  
for the degree of Doctor of Medicine  
by  
J. Franklin Vaughan,  
of Wilmington  
Delaware. -  
Passed March 7<sup>th</sup> 1823



### Diseases of the Larynx.

The Larynx, is a kind of cartilaginous box, situated at the superior part of the trachea, forming the origin of the trachea to the lungs. It is composed of very delicate and elastic cartilages, united together by membrane and several small muscles.

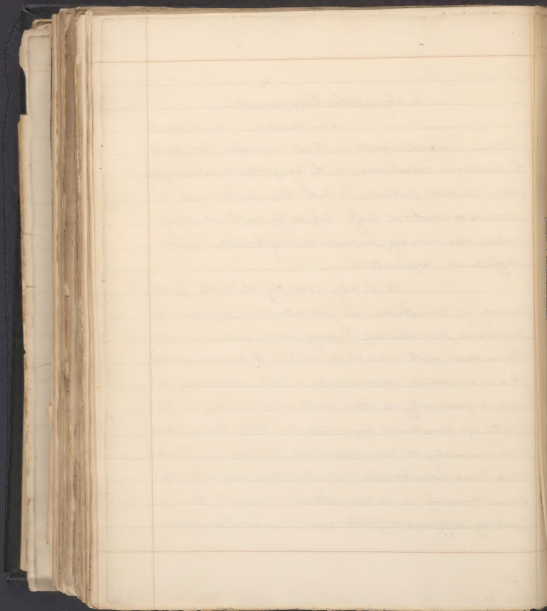
This structure being the "instrument of the voice" and intimately concerned in the faculty of speech, which is confessedly one of the most important and distinguishing attributes that man possesses over the brute creation, its diseases are certainly deserving of much attention and accurate investigations. — The form of morbid action to which it is most liable are Cynanches & Phthisis, or inflammations and Consumptions, which will therefore be made the subjects of the following dissertations: —



### 1. *Asphyxia Laryngea*.

This disease is of a local nature, is acute and of short duration. It affects the mucous membrane of the epiglottis, or *rima glottidis*, or, most probably, of both these parts, and is attended with a high degree of inflammatory action, occasioning impeded deglutition and difficult respiration.

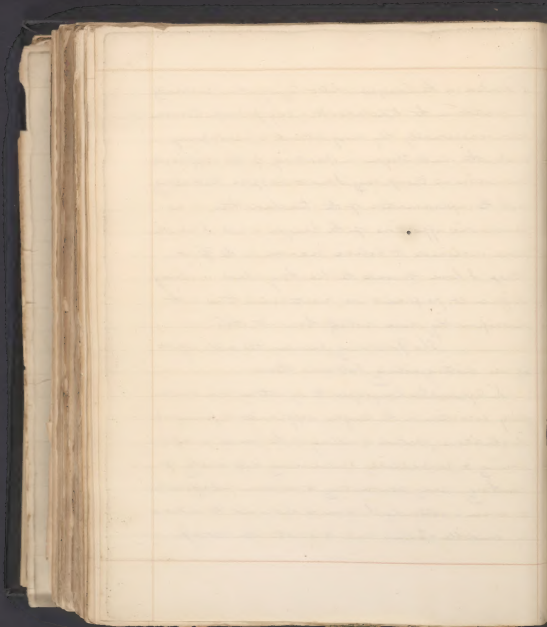
It is only recently that this fatal variety of the throat has attracted the attention of medical practitioners, having been generally confounded with *Brachitis* or Croup, and indeed there is so much resemblance in their symptoms, of well as proximity in their seats & similarity in the mode of treatment required for their cure, that it is scarcely to be wondered at that they should have been identified. But that they are not the same disease is satisfactorily proved, by their affecting different parts. Thus, *Asphyxia Laryngea*



is seated in the larynx, whilst Cynanche Trachealis is seated in the trachea. It is very probable, however, that, occasionally, they may attend & accompany each other. And Cheyne, in speaking of the difficult respirations in Croup says "I must suppose that, along with the inflammation of the trachea, there is an spasmodic affection of the larynx, which I am the more inclined to believe because, in the first stage, I have observed the breathing, which is always difficult, performed at particular times with incomparably more distress than at others."

The following peculiarities will assist of its distinguishing between them.

In Cynanche Laryngea, the symptoms are, and are, easy perspiration in the larynx, difficult & painful deglutition, partial swelling of the fauces, a supervening & perpetually increasing difficulty of breathing, nearly amounting to as sense of suffocation, the voice is extremely hoarse or reduced to a scarcely audible whisper, and it is not like croup

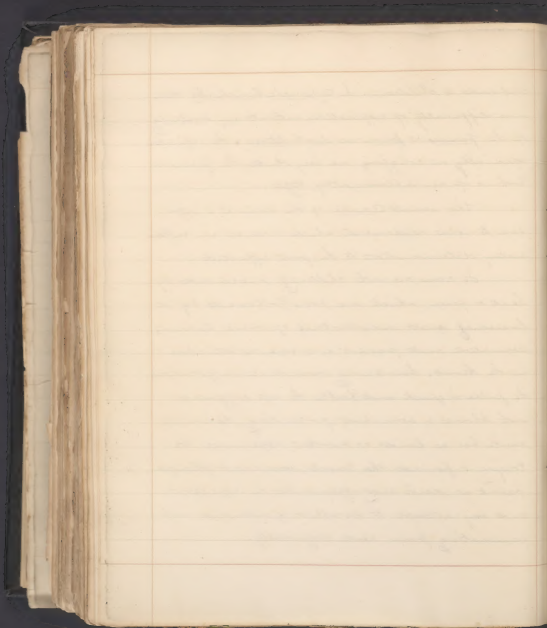




confined to children. In Croup & Tracheitis, there is a difficulty of respiration, without any swelling of the Glottis or pain in deglutition, & the expiration especially in coughing, are very shrill; the Fever in both is of an inflammatory type.

The usual Cause of this disease is exposure to cold or damp air, which produces an inflammatory determination to the parts affected.

It comes on with chilliness, succeeded by heat & fever, which are soon followed by, a hoarseness and indistinctness of voice, laboured respiration and pain, as at it were, as if stricture, in the throat, threatening immediate suffocation; the pulse is quick and full, the eyes suffused with blood & somewhat protruding, the countenance has a livid or swelled appearance, the tongue is furred, the tonsils, uvula & pharynx present a dark red appearance on inspection, and any attempt to swallow is attended with excruciating pain and difficulty.











[illegible]





He teaches but also the pupils themselves  
from the beginning of the morning hours  
the names and making, as subject to be  
through as a teacher, having right in his  
own time to make the examination of a  
the 1. however instruction - the same in line?

2. *Phthisis Laryngis*.

Return to the town of the American  
 company to which, I mention and, in all the way  
 and this disease found one of the most interesting  
 to when the human body is subject, and, unknown.  
 we advanced to Lindell in an accidental manner  
 and he told us of the following case: "A woman of  
 Bolsona died during a fit of cold with her stomach  
 which she had been in some times subject.  
 in a labors & in a bed in the same manner: & had



to observe the cause. The death was not  
very long delayed, but the cause of death was not  
to be ascertained. Their attention was directed  
towards it in the previous evening, the morning  
after because I was then in another part of the house.  
When to examine the tumor, I perceived the thick  
membrane, however, that the state of these parts, might  
account for the retention of the voice; & in opening  
the part, we found the tumor, & of the consistency  
of a poulitice & formed into a plug, completely closed  
up the cavity, under the clothes, & the living membrane  
was ulcerated in several places.

That this disease is not of such  
rare occurrence, as many seem to think, I am per-  
suaded, from my having known two cases of it  
within as many as 20 years, & observations not un-  
usually, extensive, and Chesno has said, "That such cases  
are not so uncommon as we might suppose, in  
viewing with them the relations in medical journals  
I am acquainted with, and in practice, I have seen







[illegible]













[illegible]

located in various portions of the  
the "incubation" period is the  
the number of cases, connected with  
scrophulous diathesis; & of its utility in the  
the disease there can be no dispute.

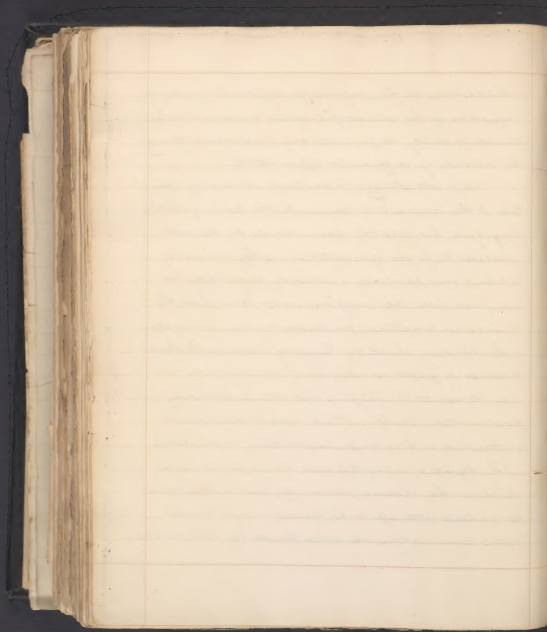
In some instances it is connected <sup>with</sup> no cause  
... symptoms of the system; then  
... the : made to be related to...

It is a very blended & much debilitated  
-ritic acid & the vegetable tonic of Rhoads  
for employes, assisted by a nourishing diet  
and exercise, is a very good tonic.



Inhalation of the vapours of Hoffman's anodyne  
liquor or of the extract of cicuta & warm water  
would probably be found very beneficial during  
the attacks of difficult respiration.

An interesting & important discovery rela-  
tive to the cause, & consequently the cure, of *Stenosis*  
*Laryngos*, has recently been made by the distin-  
guished Professor of anatomy in the University,  
to whom our sciences is already indebted for  
many considerable improvements. It is, that this  
disease is sometimes caused by an elongation  
of the uvula, which by hanging down in the throat  
produces to great or degrees of irritation as not  
only to excite laryngos but even pulmonary  
consumption itself. — This form of the disease  
is attended with a continual tickling or uneasiness  
in the throat & a very frequent hard dry cough,  
which as the disease advances becomes very great,  
the patient struggles & his face grows livid.  
Upon examination we will find no other disease





have an elongation of the vessels.

In this case we may, by strong stringent gangles sometimes excite the vessels to contraction; but if they fail, we should cut off the depending portions with as pair of scissors. We are informed by Dr. Chapman, in his lecture, "that this is a trifling operation, being attended with neither hemorrhage nor pain;" & that its effects "are truly astonishing"; he has known several cases of patients who had been treated for years for pulmonary consumption, & had been reduced nearly to the grave, "being perfectly cured & restored to health in a few months, so were well, by the operation". Although I have never had an opportunity of witnessing this myself, yet I can readily believe facts stated on such high authority, & will conclude the subject with as hope, that the discovery, as it has been made public, will prove as extensively beneficial as its illustrious author could desire. —

*[Faint, illegible handwriting on lined paper]*